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## **McManus Supports Efforts to Provide Cost-Cutting Measures for School Districts**

(LANSING) – State Senator Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau, today applauded the passage of two bills designed to reduce the size of local school districts’ operating budgets and eliminate the unnecessary allocation of testing reporting data.

“Our children should always be our first priority, and today and I applaud measures passed by the Senate that reduces the scope of school districts’ operating budgets at the same time providing our students with the best education possible,” McManus said.

Spanning a three week time period, the Senate Education Committee received testimony from local school administrators who came forth to offer suggestions on how school districts across the state can save funds in their operating budgets. Based on those suggestions, the following two bills today passed the Senate:

- **Senate Bill 365: Streamlining the Center for Educational Performance and Information (CEPI).** Currently, data submitted by schools is submitted to CEPI and numerous other state agencies. This bill requires that all data submissions will be made directly to CEPI.
- **Senate Bill 366: Eliminating Professional Development Requirements.** Currently, new teachers must have 15 days of professional development within the first three years along with five days of professional development per year. School districts pay for these services in addition to paying for substitute teachers. According to the Senate Fiscal Agency, schools could save between \$35 and \$40 million alone by not having to pay substitute teacher costs.

Also included in the legislative package are measures to eliminate the mandatory number of minimum school days in a year, instead focusing on the minimum hours in a school year, eliminate restrictions on at-risk and school readiness funds and eliminate Education Yes, the state accreditation plan, which is duplicative of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. These bills are expected to be addressed by the full Senate.